

The Alexandria Gazette

TUESDAY EVEN'G, DECEMBER 16.

LOCAL.—There was a gale of wind from the southeast nearly all night, and before day it commenced raining; the wind then hauled round to the northwest; the weather all the morning has been very uncomfortable; it must impede the operations of armies in the field.—The hull and boiler of the steamer James Guy have been taken round to Baltimore, to be refitted.—The provision market opened on King street, by Hyatt & Co., is said to be well supplied with meats, vegetables, poultry, and all kinds of articles for home consumption.

A joint resolution was offered in both Houses of the Legislature, now in session at Wheeling, on the 11th instant, proposing an adjournment to Alexandria. The resolution claims that as the bill erecting the new State has passed Congress, the functions of the Legislature have ceased in that section, and that the two bodies have therefore become the Legislature of the Eastern section, or old Virginia.

In the course of the speech of Mr. Cox, of Ohio, in the U. S. House of Representatives, yesterday, he defended Gen. McClellan and said that he (Gen. McClellan) was removed because he would not sanction the abolition schemes of the administration. He criticised severely the whole policy of the administration, and concluded by advocating a national convention to adjust existing difficulties.

STABBING AFFAIR.—Just as the five o'clock boat from Washington reached the wharf at this place yesterday afternoon, an affray occurred among some civilians and soldiers during which a soldier was stabbed with a bayonet several times by another soldier. The wounded man was sent to one of the hospitals and the soldier who stabbed him to the guard-house.

Great relief will be experienced by the newspaper press should the bill introduced by Mr. Colfax in the H. of R. become a law. It reduces the duty on foreign paper from thirty to ten per cent.

Fernando Wood, it is said, is to reply to Gov. Letcher's letter, disclaiming any communication with him, on the subject of peace propositions.

The Washington Republican strongly urges the sending away from Washington of all the "shoulder straps" remaining in that city, not on duty.

The Richmond Enquirer says that the Confederate government has had offers of loans from a number of European capitalists.

The Philadelphia Inquirer says that Gen. Lee's army at Fredericksburg, is not more than eighty thousand strong.

A DISTURBANCE occurred at a house of ill fame, on North Pitt street, near King, yesterday afternoon, about 6 o'clock. The front door was broken open and considerable excitement occasioned in the neighborhood, which was quelled by the appearance of the Provost guard.

Interesting Particulars.

[From the Washington Republican.]

The battle of Saturday was commenced by the Confederates about 9½ o'clock a. m., and was for some time confined almost solely to artillery firing.

Sumner's grand division, which was on the right, was the first to become engaged, his own corps, under command of Gen. Couch, leading in the attack. This was followed by Burnside's old corps, commanded by Gen. Wilcox, and Gen. Hooker's old corps, led by Gen. Butterfield. During the afternoon, it is said the entire line was engaged, including Franklin's division on the extreme left.

The infantry firing was commenced about 11 o'clock by Gen. Nathan Kimball's brigade.—This brigade was posted along Princess Anne street, the left resting on the old telegraph road, the centre near the court-house, and the right in the vicinity of the cemetery.

The brigade advanced through the streets at right angles with the river, upon the Confederates posted on the edge of the city, and drove them from their position to a distance of about three quarters of a mile. The brigade fought gallantly, though exposed to a terrible fire from Confederate artillery posted in front and on each flank, as well as the infantry's fire in the immediate front. They were engaged about three hours, when Gen. Kimball being wounded in the thigh, and their ammunition being nearly exhausted, they were relieved by the brigade on the left.

Nearly the same order of battle was observed by mostly all the other brigades. Opposite and in direct line with all the streets, which run at right angles with the river, were erected formidable batteries, to the raking fire of which the Federals were exposed in advancing upon the Confederates, and under cover of these batteries were rifle pits, where infantry were posted.

Military men estimate the proportion of those killed and wounded in battles generally at one-fifth of the number engaged; but it is said by persons who were on the field during the recent engagements at Fredericksburg, and who are competent to judge, that the proportion in these instances was nearly twice as great; that is, on the Federal side. This is not surprising when the position of the Confederates is considered. They have undoubtedly the advantage of one of the greatest natural strongholds of defence in that section of country.

Various prisoners were taken at different times. General Gibbor's brigade captured upwards of 250 Georgians, including a colonel, two or three majors, and several captains.

Between the Federal forces and the Confederates there is a mill race, over which the Federal forces were compelled to construct bridges in the face of a murderous fire from the Confederate artillery and infantry. This was a difficult task, but in most instances was gallantly accomplished. The troops were then compelled to march by flank across these temporary bridges, and form a line on the opposite bank. The execution of this movement subjected them to a destructive fire. Here many of the Federals were lost, but the Confederates were compelled to give way and retreat to their works on the hill.

The battle of Saturday is said to have raged for a long while in the immediate vicinity of the tomb of the mother of Washington, which is situated on the outskirts of the city.

The Sixty-ninth New York, Seventh New York and Fourteenth Indiana, suffered terribly. The first has only four commissioned officers who are able to do duty, one captain and three lieutenants. The Seventh New York (German) went into the engagement with

about five hundred men, and came out with only one hundred and fifty. At the roll of one company of this regiment the next morning, only fifteen answered, and the highest officer which was left fit for duty was a corporal.

The Fourteenth Indiana lost half of its number.

Troops in large numbers have been leaving since Sunday morning for the scene of the conflict.

The Confederates, before evacuating Fredericksburg, threw a large quantity of tobacco into the Rappahannock, which, when the Federals crossed over, they plunged into the river to recover. As their supply of tobacco had been exhausted for a long time, they were delighted with their hard-earned prize.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

Camden, the beautiful residence on the Rappahannock just below Port Royal, belonging to Wm. S. Pratt, was fired upon by the Federals on Thursday last, and considerably injured. Mrs. Pratt, who was in the house at the time, barely escaped with her life.

John L. Marye, Jr., has been elected to represent Spotsylvania county in the Legislature, and Paulas Powell the county of Amherst.

Among the prisoners lodged in Castle Thunder, on Wednesday, was a young man named Edwin S. Dorsey, son of Rev. Dr. Edwin Dorsey, of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and formerly of Baltimore, Md. He was taken prisoner near Martinsburg by a portion of Captain Glenn's Cavalry.

The Sweet Chalybeate Springs, formerly known as the Red Sweet, was sold yesterday, by C. Bliss for the handsome sum of one hundred thousand dollars cash. Purchaser, John Kelly, of Allegheny.

Just beyond the limits of Fredericksburg, an unfinished monument, begun in 1833, marks the tomb of the mother of Washington, who died in 1789.

Scully and Lewis, who have been confined in Castle Thunder, under sentence of death as spies, in copartnership with Webster, who was hung, have been pardoned and are to be sent North.

A shot manufactory has been started in Petersburg. The steeple of the old Presbyterian Church has been converted into a shot tower, and the proprietor is prepared to drop from two to four thousand pounds per week.

But four marriage licenses were issued in Petersburg during the month of November.

Persimmons are being extensively used in Virginia as a substitute for raisins in puddings.

Gov. John Letcher, and Hon. Alex. H. Boteler, will visit the army at Fredericksburg tomorrow.

The small pox is increasing in Richmond.—The City Hospital is full, and Mayo's factory contains seventy-five patients.

The National Intelligencer in the conclusion of its account of the battle at Fredericksburg, on Saturday says:—"During the fight nothing was seen of Gen. D. H. Hill's command, and much anxiety is created as to its whereabouts. It is supposed by many that Hill has gone to intercept Sigel, who is probably on his way to Culpeper, and by others that he may be working round in the rear."

The Washington Star says that Gen. Sigel was not at Fredericksburg on Sunday, not having reached there on that day.